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AGAWAM

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Legion
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Author project transforms students into writers



Shannon Williams signs a copy of her book titled "Eira" that is now available at the Agawam Public Library. Hardcover copies of books written by students in the Future Authors Program were donated to the library by Agawam-based Bridgeport National Bindery.

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Nearly 300 eighth-graders at Agawam Junior High School can now call themselves published authors.

They're the first students in the nation to use an innovative writing program to help them become authors, both digitally and in ink. Their books were published in early June – more than 100 have been sold – as part of a writing project called the Future Authors Program (FAP).

Following publication of their books, students held a book signing event at the Agawam Public Library. The event was hosted by Agawam-based Bridgeport National Bindery (BNB), which launched the FAP in January.

Students wrote 24-page books in one of five genres – fiction, non-fiction, memoir, poetry or graphic novel (fiction in comic book form) – and then uploaded their books to an electronic book tool provided by online publisher Lulu.com,

which will sell the books for two years. A portion of each sale will go to a fund that will support the FAP for the next school year. Book purchasers could get their copies signed by the authors during the book-signing event.

Once the books were uploaded, BNB published hardcover copies from the digital files. BNB then gave students a hardcover copy of their book and donated archival copies to the town library.

"The best part for the kids was when they uploaded their books and got the message, 'You are now a published author,'" said AJHS English teacher Stephanie Harris, one of the six English teachers involved with the FAP.

Huge accomplishment

"It's a huge accomplishment. I feel really proud to be part of it. This is one of the most challenging things these students have ever done, but they felt good when it was all over," Harris added. "It's incredible – they can come back to the library 20 years from now and show

Please see AUTHORS, page 6



Turley Publications photo by Mike Lydick

Holding a copy of his recently published book, AJHS student Benjamin Vyce stands with his grandmother, Sandra Vyce, during a book-signing event at the Agawam Public Library for eighth-graders who participated in the Future Authors Program.

Agawam to stay with MCAS for next school year

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The state may soon scrap the MCAS standardized test for students in grades 3 to 8, but Agawam plans to stick with the test for one more year.

The school committee voted 6 to 1 at its June 24 meeting to retain the nearly 20-year-old test instead of transitioning to a computer-based assessment – the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) – for the 2014-15 school year.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education gave all districts until

June 30 to decide which test students will take next year. The final deadline is early October, but school committees needed to decide this month to ensure they could use the test they wanted.

The committee held a 25-minute public hearing prior to the vote and nearly a dozen people came to the microphone. The overwhelming majority opposed PARCC. Only one person stated she favored PARCC, but gave no explanation as to why.

"We have no choice but to slow this down. Any other action would be premature and foolish."

– Cynthia Newsome

Parents speak out against PARCC

"I'm not opposed to standardized tests, but I'm concerned about going to PARCC," said Peter Piattirios. He said his main concern is with the structure of PARCC as compared to MCAS. "I can see kids stressing out over time" with PARCC, he added.

Sherry Ardoline told the committee that "kids are tested enough." She said that if

Please see MCAS, page 6



Turley Publications photo by Mike Lydick

Peter Piattirios addresses the school committee during a public hearing about whether Agawam should switch to PARCC or continue with MCAS for grades 3 to 8 for the 2014-15 school year. The overwhelming majority of residents who spoke favored keeping MCAS.

Agawam voters can weigh in on casino

November ballot question seeks to repeal casino law

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – One of the biggest criticisms among some Agawam residents has been the fact they did not have a vote in the decision to site a casino in western Massachusetts.

Potential sites in Springfield and West Springfield were most concerning, especially after the Massachusetts Gaming Commission awarded a license to

MGM-Springfield two weeks ago. Now, Agawam voters are finally getting a chance to be involved.

This November, with seats in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Senate and a new governor to be decided on, voters in the Commonwealth will also have the opportunity to be heard as they vote on a ballot question that seeks to repeal the casino law that was passed by the state legislature several years ago.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court has ruled that the law is unconstitutional. Please see CASINO, page 5

Council completes snow and ice removal funding

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam City Councilors approved a request from Mayor Richard Cohen to approve the deficit expenses from the 2013-2014 winter, but warned they may not fund the request next year if it is not brought to them sooner.

Both Council President Christopher Johnson and Vice President Dennis Perry chided the mayor for not bringing the funding transfer to them sooner, giving them virtu-

ally no time to consider the funding request because the budget needed to be balanced before the end of the fiscal year.

Johnson said it is unnecessary when the final winter storm was in March that the funding requests for deficit spending was done in June.

"Frankly, there's no excuse for it," Johnson said at the council's June 23 meeting, the same night

Please see FUNDING, page 5



NEWEST CALL FIREFIGHTER



Turley Publications courtesy photo
Lorenzo Mancuso was sworn in as a call firefighter for the town of Agawam on June 11 at town hall. Pictured, from the left, are Deputy Fire Chief B.J. Calvi, Mayor Richard A. Cohen, Mancuso and Fire Chief Alan Sirois.

WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.



This logo fronts a Feeding Hills business that fosters an ancient method of training your body, mind and spirit to act as one. Tell us, do you know where it's located?



Last week's photo:
No one guessed the old police academy building on South Westfield Street.



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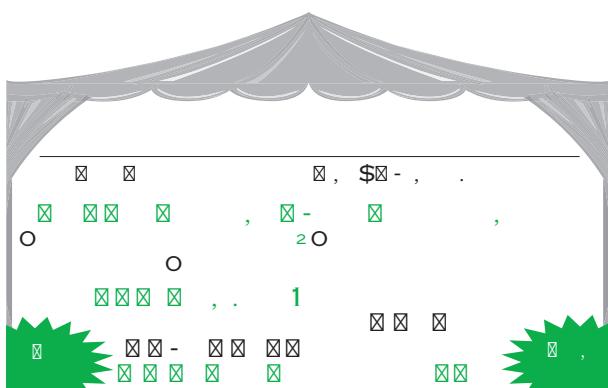
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Council meeting re-scheduled

AGAWAM – The July 7 meeting of the City Council has been rescheduled and will be held Monday, July 14.



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Turley Publications courtesy photo

From the left, Kirk Smith, president and CEO, YMCA of Greater Springfield; Charles and Susan Alvanos of Agawam; Katie Weiss, program co-ordinator, YMCA of Greater Springfield; Kristine Allard, COO, YMCA of Greater Springfield.

Agawam YMCA nears completion Project receives \$25,000 private donation

As the YMCA of Greater Springfield nears completion of its newest family center, the Agawam YMCA Wellness & Program Center, Y officials recently celebrated a \$25,000 contribution from Agawam residents Charles and Susan Alvanos.

Charles Alvanos serves as the chairman of the Advisory Board for the Agawam YMCA, which is slated to open in August on Springfield Street in the former Foodmart shopping center.

Charles and Susan Alvanos are among the many community partners who are partnering with the YMCA to bring this project to fruition. Other major donors include AM Lithography, Beveridge Foundation, Brennan Family Foundation, Chicopee Savings, Hampden Bank, Insurance Center of New England, OMG, Six Flags New England, United Bank and United Way of Pioneer Valley, Esta Manthos of Wilbraham, Robert & Carol Willey of Agawam, along with hundreds of others who have donated in support of bringing a YMCA to the town of Agawam.

"It is with great excitement that we prepare to open the doors of our Agawam YMCA Wellness & Program Center," said

Kirk Smith, president and CEO, YMCA of Greater Springfield. "For many years, the Y has been a strong presence in Agawam, providing programs and services to support thousands of youth, teens, families and seniors each year, as a 'Y without walls.' After 40 years without a building, we are proud to respond to the growing need for our services by opening this 'Cheers-like' center, where everyone knows your name."

As construction continues, the YMCA continues to raise funds to support the programs and services that will be provided upon opening. Special membership incentives are currently available, including charter memberships, which allow members to "lock in" a lifetime membership rate, as well as donate towards the fundraising efforts.

The Agawam YMCA will include a health & wellness center, group exercise space, café, technology center and community meeting space. Naming opportunities for donors are still available.

To schedule an interview, or to learn more about the YMCA of Greater Springfield, contact Nikki Durham at ndurham@springfieldy.org or visit www.springfieldy.org.

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IT BECOMES YOU.

The historic "Cyclone" roller coaster ride will be retired by Six Flags New England on July 20. The ride was built more than 31 years ago.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last Tuesday, June 24, Six Flags New England announced they would be retiring the famous "Cyclone" roller coaster ride that has been a staple at the park for 31 years.

Public Relations Director Jennifer McGrath said the decision to retire one of the most historic wooden roller coasters in the park's history was not taken lightly, and Six Flags plans to give it the ultimately sendoff.

"We will be retiring the ride on July 20," said McGrath. "There will be a great retirement ceremony where we will also be inviting teachers from all over the area that are retiring as well. This is a historical attraction, and we want to celebrate it along with education at the same time."

The Cyclone was built in 1983 and was the largest roller coaster at Riverside Park before Six Flags took ownership in 1999 and began constructing larger roller coasters. According to a press release from McGrath, the Cyclone is one of the largest wooden coasters in the world, and the amazing wooden architecture unfurls over 3,400 feet of track.

"As 24 thrill seekers board each Cyclone train, they quickly climb 109 feet to the top then plummet down at speeds of over 50 miles per hour," the press release states. "Riders also experience twists and turns around every corner as they face a variety of hills and weightlessness. Like any wooden coaster, the clicks and rattles from the frame only enhance the element of thrill riders face." The Cyclone currently is one of the two wooden coasters housed at Six Flags New England.

McGrath said Six Flags officials, includ-

ing President John Winkler, took a number of different factors into effect before the park made the decision to close the ride down.

"We considered its location, age, maintenance costs, ridership, the feelings of our guests and the historic significance of the ride," said McGrath.

Recently, Six Flags unveiled the Sky-screamer, the ultimate swing ride. The ride, which is located adjacent to the Cyclone on the north side of the park, takes riders on swings 40 stories in the air.

"We have a lot of exciting things happening on that end of the park," McGrath said. "We are definitely planning to have something special there for our guests."

McGrath confirmed Six Flags officials will be making an announcement for their next big attraction in 2015. She declined to say what that attraction would be at this time, but says it could be a ride, a show or some other type of attraction. McGrath also said the next big attraction may not be located where the Cyclone is currently.

"It may be a year or two before we get the Cyclone dismantled and decide what will be put in its place," she said.

McGrath has been casually polling guests in line to ride the Cyclone.

"Some of the riders are disappointed because it was something their father took them on," said McGrath. "Others feel like they have done the ride, and what is next?"

McGrath confirmed that the Thunderbolt, a smaller and older roller coaster at the park, will live to see its 75th birthday. She says the coaster, which is landmarked by the American Coaster Enthusiasts, will remain at the park for the foreseeable future.

The Cyclone will remain open daily until its retirement July 20.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Opinion

Remember the founders

These days with revisionist history (American is bad, racist, sexist, homophobic, whatever), we really need to take a look at our Declaration of Independence and founding documents to see what they really mean, and remember that our founding fathers (these so called racists, sexism, bigoted, homophobes) actually gave us the blueprint for everyone to be free.

Sure our founding fathers were products of their time. How were they supposed to know of the dandified morays of today? They primarily came out of European countries that were lead by kings and queens where you didn't have much freedom at all. Your freedom involved doing as you were told, and if you didn't like it you had the choice of imprisonment, banishment, being burned at the stake, or for the really free thinkers – being drawn and quartered. Maybe have your mortal remains left swinging in a cage over the Thames or Seine or Rhine as a symbol to everyone else that you need to obey or die.

And this was just in the so called civilized world – never mind other parts of the world where free thinking and free speech were also rewarded with beheadings, having your tongue cut out, hands cut off, branding, having your head shrunk, etc. No where in the world was there a place where people had the right to say what they wanted, write what they wanted, do what they wanted. You couldn't even have too many cats. How many crazy cat ladies were burned as witches back in the good ole' days?

Our founding fathers and mothers came from such back grounds. They left the harsh old countries to come to the new world to have a place where they could worship as they pleased with out ending up in inquisitional dungeons, they could print political tracks without looking over their shoulder's for the king's assassins, and have a place where they could have a say in how they were governed instead of relaying on the whims mad inbred kings.

So we suggest people remember what our founding fathers were setting up in this country. They were risking their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honors to fight against oppressive government. Sure they were not perfect people – they were human beings – and no human being has ever been perfect (just look at your neighbor). But they did write documents that eventually gave us a government that eventually gave everyone freedom. Yes, they had slaves, mistakes were made with the natives, but they wrote the Constitution which made it possible for everyone to be free.

Of course, no democratic republic has ever lasted 200 years, although we have made it through that mark, but we are slowly losing our freedoms. We now have "political correctness" where if you really say what you think – you could face a lawsuit or lose your job. You can't do what you want on your own property because the neighbors don't like it or you can't afford the permits or the bylaws prevent it. You can't worship in public as you want because that automatically makes you a mean nasty ignorant person who could offend somebody's delicate feelings.

So we think, instead of denigrating our founding fathers and mothers – we need to be more like them. They were tough, they were strong, they were highly intelligent. They did not sit around whining about being victims, thinking how the world owed them things, or weeping and crying to lawyers because their feelings were hurt.

We don't advocate breaking laws but we do advocate repealing stupid ones. Maybe loosening up some bylaws, and stop passing "feel good" legislation that looks good on the surface but only adds another layer of suffocating restrictions.

41 million going forth for the Fourth...



Letter to the Editor

Old, new friends enjoy annual supper

To the editor:

The members of Community Grange #382 would like to thank those who attended the 35th annual Strawberry Supper. It was nice to see our "old friends" and at the same time, meeting new friends.

Many of the attendees did not realize that the current Grange building was the former West Street School built in 1872.

We would like to thank Big Y for their generous donation and to Goodies Convenience Store, Michael's Bakery, East Hartford, Conn., Scantic Valley Farm in Somers, Conn., and the Agawam Advertiser News for publicizing our supper.

The Members of Community Grange #382

Faith does really matter

Today, in America, it seems that something terrible is wrong. We are fighting with all that is within us to escape the faith of our fathers. We seem to want to remove God the Father from our society. We do this with the lifestyles we live, the decisions we make, and the attitudes we have; we fight against our Creator. We wrestle to remove God from our culture, our public places and even our homes. If this continues it won't be long before this Nation loses its position and power to influence.

For many everything may seem to be rosy but beneath the surface lays terrible dander. The Scriptures teach us that the only thing that exalts a nation is its faith in God. Today America puts its faith in education, pen without faith. Faith does really matter.

government, health care for all, or in employment opportunities. We are looking in the wrong direction. All these things are good but it is "Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33)" that we should be looking to.

I listened to a debate between independent candidates for governor of Massachusetts and one candidate didn't like the answer given by one of the other candidates. He replied, "We need to leave heaven and come back to earthly answers." But it is God's will that "His will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10)." The Lord's Prayer is specific about designing our lives after heaven's examples. This cannot happen without faith. Faith does really matter.



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2014 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do

not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.



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Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 70 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from June 24 to June 30.

On June 24 at 6:47 p.m., the department responded to Perry Lane for citizen complaint.

On June 24 at 7:40 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for fire, other.

On June 24 at 8:55 p.m., the department responded to Cleveland Street for unauthorized burning.

On June 24 at 9:41 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for lockout.

On June 24 at 10:35 p.m., the department responded to South Westfield Street for smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional.

On June 25 at 11:57 a.m., the department responded to North Westfield Street for lockout.

On June 26 at 5:01 a.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for alarm system activation, no fire – unintentional.

On June 26 at 12:05 p.m., the department

responded to Cardinal Drive for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On June 26 at 12:05 p.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional.

On June 26 at 5:15 p.m., the department responded to Walnut Street Ext. for lockout.

On June 26 at 6:15 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for lockout.

On June 27 at 1:06 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for good intent call, other.

On June 27 at 6:09 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for brush or brush and grass mixture fire.

On June 27 at 8:32, the department responded to Shoemaker Lane for trash or rubbish fire, contained.

On June 28 at 7:47 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On June 29 at 2:28 p.m., the department responded to North Westfield Street for lockout.

On June 30 at 5:14 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 349 calls for service from June 24 to June 30. The department made 9 arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, June 24

Michael J. Poreda, 21, of 385 Carew St., Springfield, was arrested on a charge of trespassing.

Wednesday, June 25

Stephanie Roberta Joanides, 19, of 247 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, was arrested on a charge of domestic assault and battery and on a default warrant.

Ryan Ribiero, 26, of 142 Franklin St., Agawam, was arrested on three counts of receiving stolen property over \$250, two counts of larceny under \$250 by false pretense, and breaking and entering in the daytime for felony.

Friday, June 27

Michael D. Robinson, 48, of 78 Poinsettia St., Agawam, was arrested on a charge of domestic assault and battery.

Saturday, June 28

Adalberto Bernal, 30, of 323 Regency Park Drive, Agawam, was arrested on a default warrant.

Alana Jean Toomey, 42, of 13 Wood St., Southwick, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

John Arthur Serra, 43, of 201 Pineview Circle, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

George A. Carron, Jr., 53, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 35, Agawam, was arrested on charges of domestic assault and battery and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Sunday, June 29

Briana K. Johnson, 20, of 15 Swift Court, Springfield, was arrested on a charge of trespassing.

Agawam voters can weigh in on casino

CASINO, from page 1

Judicial Court has overruled attorney general and candidate for governor Martha Coakley's decision that the ballot question would have forced MGM to lose property without being compensated.

The court ruling will allow voters to overturn licenses that have already been awarded to Springfield and Plainville. The town of Plainville was awarded the slot parlor license agreed to by the legislature when the casino law was developed. Springfield was awarded the first full casino license, and the gaming commission is in the process of ruling on a license to be awarded in eastern Massachusetts.

As a result of the court ruling, an \$800 million casino resort proposed by MGM will be delayed until voters hit the polls in November.

The repeal vote was made possible when 68,911 signatures were gathered last fall to put the issue on the ballot. Coakley rejected the petition, leading to the petitioners suing for the right to put the question on the ballot.

In Agawam, Mayor Richard Cohen and his administration have been watching the issue very closely. Cohen established a casino mitigation committee to research casinos and the potential effect they would have on the community.

Traffic, proximity to the schools and other economic impacts were the biggest areas identified. City Councilor George Bitzis filed a resolution asking the council to oppose the casino proposed by Hard Rock International on the grounds of the Big E in West Springfield.

When West Springfield voters turned down Hard Rock's proposal and Springfield's had been the lone proposal to pass, Cohen's committee then turned its attention to negotiating a mitigation settlement with MGM. Agawam was one of the first few surrounding communities to make an agreement with MGM.

They settled on payments of \$125,000 up front to pay for legal fees and \$150,000 per year for 15 years. The state has already reimbursed Agawam for legal fees to negotiate the settlement. Agawam's contract has a unique "look-back" clause that calls for the possibility for re-negotiating mitigation payments after one and five years.

Cohen and his committee have never taken an official stance on whether or not they want casinos in the area. The committee is still technically active, though they have not been meeting since the settlement was made in December.

The mayor did not say whether they would begin meeting to assist town voters with information needed to make an informed voting decision. Richard Thereoux, the town clerk and chairman of the casino mitigation committee, did say he expects a huge voter turnout this fall.

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Early Childhood Center accepting applications

The Agawam Early Childhood Center is accepting applications for both morning and afternoon sessions for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Agawam Early Childhood Center provides all students with a standards-based education that builds the foundation for all future learning with the Agawam Public Schools. The

program meets the needs of children with and without disabilities and follows a developmentally-appropriate curriculum where 3 and 4 year olds learn through play and hands-on activities.

For more information, call 821-0597 or visit www.agawampublicschools.org.

Council completes snow and ice removal funding

FUNDING, from page 1

they were faced with passing the fiscal year 2015 budget. "If this happens again, I will not support it and it will end up getting added to the tax levy for next year."

Cohen requested \$169,345.09 from the line item reserve fund to cover the deficits from the past winter. The town spent \$55,247 for overtime for snow and ice removal. They used an extra \$69,112 for heavy equipment rentals to move snow to other locations. Another \$44,985 was used for materials, including additional sand and salt mixtures to treat roads.

The mayor received permission to deficit spend on the line items back in March. Johnson said at that point, the mayor stopped sending the council per storm calculations of what was being spent.

"We gave him his deficit spending resolution and that is when we stopped receiving updates," Johnson said. "There is no excuse for it. We then got the resolution in June when snow removal had stopped at the end of March."

Agawam, like many other towns, often has to do some deficit spending for snow and ice removal. The city council has routinely accommodated the requests to deficit spend in order to make sure town roads are safe for travel.

This year's snowfall was heavy, but Department of Public Works Superintendent Christopher Golba said the frequency of plowable events and the amount of material needed to treat roads adds up.

The majority of the plowable events occurred in January and February with light accumulations happening in March. Because of colder temperatures, it took quite some time for snow to melt away from places such as athletic fields.

Councilor Joseph Mineo, who chairs the Finance Subcommittee of the council, said the committee supported the request by a vote of 3-0, but requested the fund transfer requests be submitted sooner so the council and subcommittee has an ample opportunity to look over the bills.

"We have our backs against the wall to pass this or it goes toward the tax levy for next year," said Johnson. "We should not have to do this in the middle of budget season."

Cohen said this week the request went to the council when it did because he had to wait for final figures.

"It was not late," said Cohen. "We had to wait for all the figures and numbers and have it completed by the end of the fiscal year."

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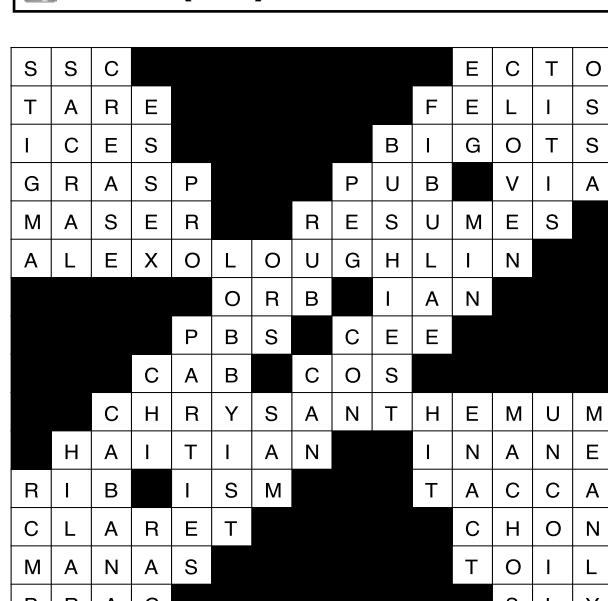
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Author project transforms students into writers

AUTHORS, from page 1

their own children what they did."

In addition to support from BNB and Lulu, Canon Solutions America provided ramp-up money for the program, said Michele Brennan, vice president for marketing and communications at BNB. Brennan created the program, supervised it and arranged for guest authors to speak to students. She said it was similar to training for a marathon, except students only had 15 weeks.

"They had to figure out what type of book to write, learn how to focus on how to write so there was a flow to the story line, and then suffer through the editing process. Most had never written more than a paragraph or two in their young lives. It was an extraordinary feat, even for seasoned writers."

AJHS Principal Norm Robbins called it a "phenomenal" project. "It was very intense. Teachers and students did an outstanding job in such a short period of time. Next year we'll start sooner to give students more time to delve deeper and develop their writing skills more fully," he said.

Mayor Richard Cohen, who serves as school committee chair, attended the book signing. He called the FAP "fantastic." After looking at the display of books written by students, he said it showed how talented Agawam students are. "Use it, don't waste it," he told students.

Freedom, creativity and hard work

Benjamin Vyce, said it was "exciting" to see his book in hardcover. His book, "House of Hitmen," is about a teenage boy who discovers his father and his friends had once been hitmen.

"It was a very difficult process, but it was fun. It was a good experience; we got the chance to express our feelings in a book. We shared ideas and had a lot of freedom to write about whatever we wanted," he said.

Shannon Williams said the idea for her book – "Eira" – just "popped" into her head. She wrote about a girl who is kidnapped because her mother is a gambler who didn't



AJHS Principal Norm Robbins is engrossed in reading one of the books written by an eighth-grader at his school.

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Agawam to stay with MCAS for next school year

MCAS, from page 1

there is a change, a lot of time should be spent investigating the new test.

"We have a good school system. I think we should stick with MCAS for now," said Ardoline.

City Councilor and parent Gina Letellier called MCAS "a tried and true test," adding that there's not enough experience with PARCC. Cynthia Newsome, a parent who is a teacher in another district, said she's well-informed and educated about current education reform issues. However, she said PARCC is not a quality assessment.

"PARCC is poorly written and developmentally inappropriate, especially for children in the lower grades," she said.

Newsome called PARCC "an untested and unproven assessment" with "unknown costs." She said there are still questions about what PARCC will do to the school budget.

"We have no choice but to slow this down. Any other action would be premature and foolish," she said.

Committee members air their frustration about PARCC

During the discussion prior to voting, committee members expressed their concerns – and frustrations – about PARCC. Shelley Reed said PARCC will double the amount of time students will be tested since it would be administered twice a year instead of once a year like MCAS.

"I can't see how teachers would have time for anything else, but to teach to PARCC. Everyone knows teachers do not have enough time to teach what they do now," Reed said.

She added that testing is not teaching. "How much testing is enough? We're finally given the opportunity to have a response to a state mandate and I say no. I think we should remain with MCAS until we're forced to go with PARCC," she said.

Carmino Mineo said he was against PARCC because not enough research has been done on it. "With so much unproven, I'm not in favor of replacing MCAS," he said.

Diane Juzba said one of her concerns with PARCC is there is no method to test students who have severe disabilities. "This is troubling. These are our students, too, and they deserve to be tested just like everybody else," she said.

A 'totally flawed' process

An angry Anthony Bonavita described the process used by the state to have school committees decide between PARCC and MCAS as "totally flawed" and last minute.

"The state was doing whatever they were doing and at the last minute they dumped on us and said, 'Oh, by the way, school commit-

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Saturday, July 5

THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. The public is invited. For more information, call (413) 538-9838 or visit www.holyokemerrygoround.com.

Sunday, July 6

A FREE BREAKFAST ON THE LAWN is offered every Sunday at 9 a.m. at Hope Community Church located at 152 South Westfield St., Feeding Hills. Everyone is welcome on the "hill" for a good breakfast and good fellowship. For more information, call (413) 786-2445 or email office@hopechurchagawam.org.

THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. The public is invited. For more information, call (413) 538-9838 or visit www.holyokemerrygoround.com.

Tuesday, July 8

LUNCHTIME LYRICS will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Agawam Pub-

lic Library. Corlene Roberts returns for her fourth season and will play her guitar at this free event. The public is invited to bring a lunch and enjoy some mid-day music.

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie ("The Soloist") at 12:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

Wednesday, July 9

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

THE SPRINGFIELD TURNVEREIN, located at 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, offers Trivia Night every Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. The public is invited to come as one or as a team. Subjects include general knowledge, sports, history, music and more. Prizes awarded.

Thursday, July 10

STORROWTON VILLAGE MUSEUM will host a free educational tour of its legendary "Aunt Helen's Herb Garden," Thursday, July 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visitors will be shown the four sections of the garden: medicinal, culinary, textile and household. For more information, contact the Village at 413-205-5051 or storrow@TheBigE.com.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield will host "Songs from America's Heartland," as part of its A Little Night Music concert series at 6 p.m. It is free and open

to the public; food donations accepted. For more information and a complete listing of concerts, visit www.trinityspringfield.org.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will host a blood drive Sunday, July 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, 605 Silver St., Agawam. For more information and to make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org or call (800) 733-2767.

THE FIRST MASSACHUSETTS LYME RUN will take place Sunday, July 20 beginning at Take 5 Restaurant, 994 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. It will be 40 miles from start to finish and will include motorcycles and cars. For more information, contact LHines6282@gmail.com, Erosati@aol.com, or visit the Facebook page.

FITNESS FIRST HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center, Wednesday, July 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo is required to donate blood. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be

18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.

A FALLSFEST MUSIC FESTIVAL will take place Saturday, July 26 at Beachgrounds Park, 116 Main St., in South Hadley Falls. The event is free but non-perishable food items for Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry are welcome. For more information, visit www.shfallsfest.com or call (413) 219-5577.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.



DEATH NOTICES

Davis, John L.
Died Tuesday, June 24, 2014
Funeral July 2, 2014
Colonial Forastiere
Funeral Home
Agawam

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better. Call for your Appointment

Weekly Newspaper Editor Sought

The Agawam Advertiser News, a weekly newspaper with an office in Feeding Hills, MA, is seeking a managing editor to handle day-to-day operations. The preferred candidate will possess strong management, organizational and people skills; editorial experience in news and feature reporting, including writing, editing, assigning, photography, and social media content; have the ability and willingness to represent the newspaper in the community through coverage of meetings/events and involvement in community activities.

This is an excellent opportunity for an experienced individual who enjoys community weekly journalism, meeting deadlines and organizing and managing correspondents.

The successful candidate must also possess a strong desire to network actively within the community and maintain close working relationships with colleagues and cultural, political, educational and municipal departments.

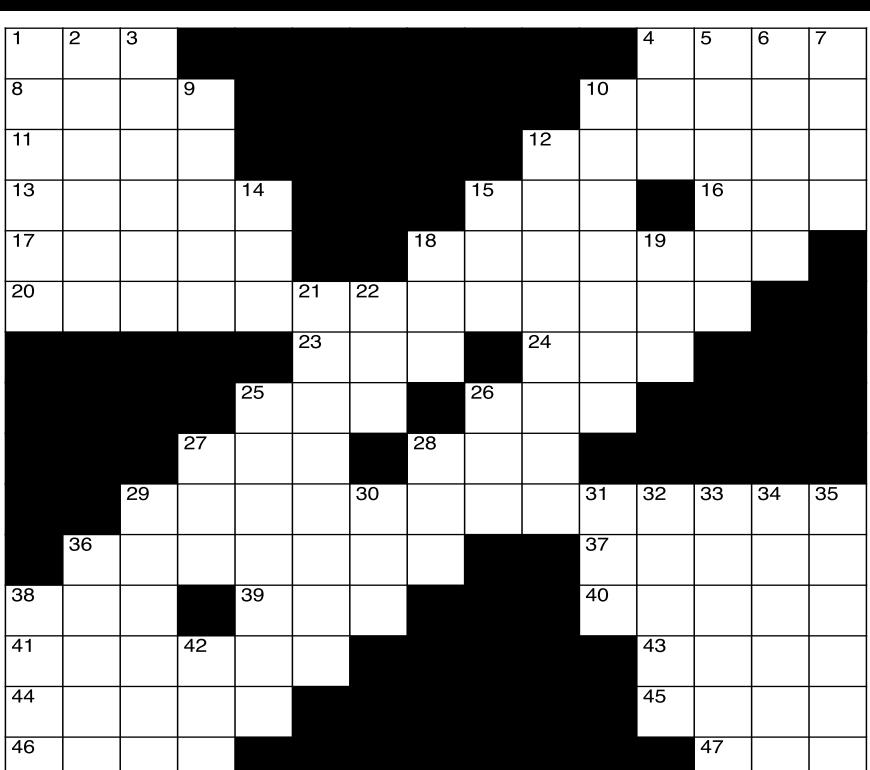
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Sanford, FL school
4. Indicates outer 8. Container counterbalance
10. Domestic cat genus
11. Cools down
12. Intolerant people
13. Take hold of
15. Corner bar
16. By way of
17. Microwave amplifier
18. Take up again
20. "Hawaii Five-O" star
23. A sphere
24. 007's creator
25. Downton Abbey network
26. Rapper — Lo
27. Taxi
28. Romaine
29. Mum of China
36. From Haiti
37. Fatuous
38. Make fun of
39. A doctrine
40. African plant species
41. Dry red wine
43. Korean monetary unit
44. US airbase in Krygyzstan
45. Do work
46. Czech capital (alt. sp.)
47. Crafty

CLUES DOWN

1. Mark of infamy
2. Of the lower back
3. Crimp
4. Brain wave test
5. Pulled apart
6. Leatherwoods
7. Thessaly
9. R. Devereux, 1st Earl of
10. Leg bones
12. Most brachy
14. Favorable argument
15. Wooden plug
18. Stroke
19. Fukien dialect
21. Special interest influencer
22. Many not ands
25. Political organizations
26. Bunco game
27. 22nd Greek letter
28. Metal container
29. Beach shelter
30. Detective Spade
31. Strike
32. Establish by law
33. Massive compact halo objects
34. Unwind
35. In a base manner
36. ___ mass: abnormal growth
38. Canadian law enforcers
42. Scrap of cloth

Answers on page 5

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In the Classroom

Doering students embark on 'enrichment' trip

One hundred twenty-three enrichment students at the Roberta G. Doering School embarked on a field trip to visit the Submarine Force Library and Museum in Groton, Conn., on June 5. In enrichment class, the students learned about the history of cartography (land and nautical), submarines and lighthouses. This learning culminated with a visit where the students could actually step foot on a real submarine, the USS Nautilus, the first nuclear powered submarine, as well as visit the museum.

The afternoon ended with a visit to the Avery Point Campus of UConn, also in Groton, where the students could visit the Avery Point Lighthouse located on Long Island Sound. Even though they experienced the worst weather possible, a monsoon of rain, all the students had a terrific time reinforcing all they learned.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Pictured at the Avery Point Lighthouse are Roberta G. Doering School enrichment students, from the left, Kayleah U., Stephanie M., Meredith R., Delaney B. and Delaney M.



Roberta G. Doering School enrichment students on a recent field trip are, from the left, Colin S., Justin D., Joe L., Colin M., Ethan H., James C., David D., Billy B. and Joseph G.

KidsFest opens 2014 with Les Julian

The opening performance of the 2014 edition of KidsFest, brought to the public free of charge by the Agawam Parks & Recreation Department along with support from local businesses, will take place Wednesday, July 9, at 11 a.m. at Veterans Green.

Family and children's musician and recording artist Les Julian has entertained thousands of children and adults in hundreds of schools, colleges, libraries, museums, senior centers, park and recreation shows, theaters, hospitals, hospices and arts festivals. His performances showcase his award-winning original songs and illuminate universal themes of human life while celebrating the diversity of the world through a variety of exciting musical styles.

Julian can most recently be heard on the Grammy-winning compilation CD, "All About Bullies ... Big and Small." On nylon string and electric guitars as well as mandolin and percussion, with an unforgettable voice and rubbery storyteller's face, he is a singer of stories that one critic said, "...delight and transport," songs that both entertain and educate.

In case of rain, KidsFest concerts will be cancelled.

The 2014 concerts are brought to the public by the following corporate sponsors: Agawam Advertiser/Turley Publications, Agawam Cultural Council, Agawam Lions Club, Agawam Parks & Recreation, Agawam Rotary Club, Allied Flooring & Paint, Berkshire Power, Bolduc's Apparel, Canary Blomstrom Insurance Agency, Easthampton Savings Bank, FC Stars of Massachusetts,



Turley Publications courtesy photo
The opening act for this summer's edition of KidsFest will be Les Julian.

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Agawam Junior High Term 4 Honor Roll

Grade 8

Aviella Abramchuk, Camille Aloisi, Lenox Alves, Nicholas Archambault, Meagan Arslanian, Brianne Aubrey, Emily Bartlett, Alexander Bishop, Nicholas Black, Jeremy Bogacz, Jessica Bonfiglio, Isabella Brothers, Joshua Carrier, Nicholas Casamento, Adriana Chaika, Sophia Chrisanthopoulos, Dylan Christy, Kelly Colwell, Erin Considine, Dominique Counos, Caitlin Courtney, Alicia Crochetiere, Alyson Crochetiere, Samantha Cross, Caleigh Croteau, Carlos Cruz, Santino Curto, Zachary Dion, Nicole Dobrowolski, Nicole Dougherty, Kiley Dugan, Paige Edwards, Amanda Faucher, Kristen Fellion, Katerina Fenney, Samantha Fett, Rachel Florence, Cody Flynn, Emma Fogarty, Emily Fountain, Grace Frogameni, Brianna Fryer, Michael Gamelli, Adam Gauthier, Brianna Gaynor, Jenna Gouvan, Steven Grasso, Jenna Gravel, Thomas Grenier, Ethan Gulla, Lindsay Hartmann, Jonathan Heelon, Joseph Hendrickson, Dominic Savio Higiro, Paige Hollander, Quinnlyn Hunt, Karli James, David Javadian, Cassandra Jones, Kristina Kinchak, Kyler Kisielewski, Tatyana Kondreanu, Sarah Krafciak, Nicholas Lamari, Nicole Langevin, Cassidy Laudato, Haley Laudato, William Le, Cameron Lebeau, Jarrod Lemke, Madison Lockwood, Sara Lubarsky, Jaden Luke, Nicole Luna, Zihong Luo, Nicholas Mallerba, Alyssa Martin, Shaun Mateus, Nicole Mercadante, Elizabeth Miliken, Nathan Mitchell, Veronica Modirca, Alyssa Nadeau, Jacob Neal, Carina Nesen, Caitlin Normoyle, Kamer Nuhiu, Joseph Oliver, Meagan Olson, Deanna Pahl, Dario Papallo, Melissa Paquette, Sadie Parrotta, Khush Patel, Nil Patel, Domenic Pellegrino, Connor Pender, Mia Perella, Justin Poirier, Katelyn Poirier, Julia Potter, Alexis Ralph, Grace Rinaldi, Quinn Robinson, Matthew Rowe, Sonia Rubeck, Jessica Santaniello, Jacob Sawyer, Audrey Shuart, Laura Snow, Quinne Stoddard, Jordan Streete, Brianna Taft, Angela Taliceo, Kaylee Tang, Corey Taylor, Eliza Timms, Benjamine Vyce, Jake Wieners, Brea Wier, Shannon Williams,

Mara Winer, Isabella Yacovone, Fatima Zahooor.

Grade 7

Ashley Adams, Natalie Andrews, Abdullah Aydah, Mariangelie Beaudry, Jason Beaver, Alexander Bisson, Sydney Biza, Juliet Burbank, Jade Canney, Madison Carra, Nicholas Charest, Isolina Cipriani, Madison Cofer, Lilivette Colon, Eyan Corridan, Yasuo Council, Amy Crawford, Cameron Croteau, Anan Daniels, Derek Davis, Tommaso DeCaro, Taylor DeGeorge, Nico DeMaio, Mia DePalma, Olivia DePergola, Rachel Dialessi, Daniel Donahue, Joseph Dowd, Patrick Drake, Corey Duquette, Erin Dustin, Sarah Ehresman, Parker Florian, Leniyah Garcia, Maria Giberson-Acevedo, Alia Godek, Timothy Goudreau, Jenna Grasso, Meghan Haines, Stephen Hall, Kayla Herlihy, Veranika Hrytskevich, Sarah Hulse, Alexandra Humphries, Grayson Illouz, Alina Iovenco, Peter Jang, Jolene Jendrysik, Hunter Jones, Miranda Kamukala, Irina Kaptuyug, Samantha Kelley, Tyler Kelley, Matthew King, Oleksandra Kobylianska, Ariana Kozycz, Adam Krafciak, Diana Kulmizev, Caroline LaBonte, Trysten Lajoie, Samantha Landry, Madelyn Lapierre, Allison Leonard, Scott Malecki, Marissa Mansfield, Kaily Mayo, Haily Mereschuk, Morgan Miller, Alysha Miolla, Vanni Morello, Jacob Mullins, Camryn Nicora, Madison O'Connell, Emily Oliver, Michael Olson, Caroline Ortiz, Cassidy Patterson, Gwendolyn Payne, Joseph Pellegrino, Raisa Polyova, Jasmine Pszczola, Natalie Pullen, Kyle Reed, Mariana Reid, Noah Rivera, Chloe Robinson, Felicity Rovatti, Sean Ryan, Isaac Saenz, Justin Salva, Lexie Sexton, Jacob Shea, Brandon Smith, Casey Smith, Sara Sonsini, Hayley Sotolotto, Sophia Strain, Andrew Sullivan, Jacob Sweeney, Justin Swistak, Avery Szulc, Matthew Talevi, Alexandria Taylor, Lena Tedeschi, Joseph Thornton, Noah Trude, Ashley Ugolini, John Wheat, Sydney Winters, Gloria Zghereca.



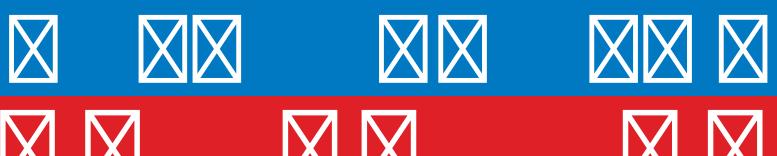
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EVVGIRL DONATION



The EvvGirl Foundation recently donated iPads to Perry Lane Camp, where Evan Bard worked for several summers. The foundation wanted to give back to the kids' camp that meant so much to Evan to show appreciation for its support to the foundation this past year. Pictured, from the left, are Todd Bard, Mayor Richard A. Cohen, Barbara Bard, Leisl Bard, Kathy Keenan, Chris Sparks, Sarah Varnaukas, and Kyle Fraga

Seniors

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, July 7: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club, Free Hearing Test by Ear Master; 9:30 a.m., Line Dancing; 10 a.m., Fallon Health Rep. Available; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Tuesday, July 8: Summer Exercise Program Begins; 9 a.m., Shuffleboard (meet at St. John's courts); 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("The Soloist"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance.

Wednesday, July 9: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 1 Meeting; 2 p.m., CPA Jack Welch

Available (by appt.); 5 p.m., No Zumba Gold.

Thursday, July 10: Summer Exercise Program; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6:30 p.m., Pitch.

Friday, July 11: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m., All Media Art; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Lunch menu

Monday, July 7: Quiche Lorraine, hash brown, watermelon.

Tuesday, July 8: Country pie, spring salad, pudding.

Wednesday, July 9: Chicken gratin, mashed potatoes, broccoli, baked good.

Thursday, July 10: Roast pork, roasted potatoes and carrots, mixed fruit.

Friday, July 11: Linguini and red clam sauce, Caesar salad, pineapple.

Clinic to offer Health Care Proxy information

Heritage Hall West, part of Genesis Healthcare, will host a Health Care Proxy Clinic Wednesday, July 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. The focus of the clinic is to provide education on the importance of having a health care

proxy and offer guidelines on establishing one. Necessary forms and witnesses will be available to assist anyone interested in creating a health care proxy while at the clinic.

Shrimp & Rice Salad

It is not very pleasant to think about cooking on those very hot and humid summer days. This recipe is cool and refreshing and requires the option of the stovetop but no oven or grill.

There have been times that I have substituted red bell pepper for the tomato but it is usually not necessary this time of year. Draining the chopped tomato on a clean paper towel helps to sustain the intensity of the salad dressing. I always have a bag of cooked shrimp in my freezer and I prefer the larger ones (26-30 count per pound). But for this recipe, I like to cut them in half or in three pieces.

Goat cheese may be substituted for the Feta cheese but I like how the Feta gives the dish an added salty flavor. And to add another burst of salt, try substituting Kalamata olives for black olives.

Prepared, packaged rice pilaf (purchased dry in a 5-6 oz. bag) is my favorite way to serve rice as a side dish, but plain cooked rice is acceptable. Since the package produces 4 servings, I may use it for one hot meal and use the leftovers for this recipe or vice versa. Of course, this means you will need to heat up the kitchen. Since I have never mastered cooking plain rice, I have found ways to cheat. I will often purchase steamed brown rice from a Chinese restaurant. I buy a large container and divide it into half-cup servings and freeze until ready to use. Or, now I am able to find several types of microwaveable rice packaged in two, one-cup containers. They are already cooked and just

need to be heated. (I never microwave any food in a plastic container. I transfer it to a glass container.) If you choose the packaged rice pilaf, it will add enough salt. If using any plain rice, you may need to salt and pepper to taste, even with the Feta and Kalamata olives.

The last time I prepared this recipe I had no lettuce but I did have some baby spinach. I liked it even better than the

bed of lettuce.

Shrimp & Rice Salad

1 tsp. fresh lemon juice
2 T. Italian dressing
2 T. chopped scallions
2 T. crumbled Feta cheese
10 oz. cooked shrimp
3/4 C. diced cucumber
1/4 C. chopped tomato
1 1/2 C. cooked rice (see notes)
6 medium black olives, cut in half

Toss all ingredients and refrigerate until chilled. Serve on a bed of chopped lettuce.

Ann Macey is the author of 'ANN'S TABLE FOR TWO: Quick & Easy Two Serving Recipes.' Ann welcomes your questions and comments. You may contact her at: Annstable@gmail.com.

IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



Turley Publications courtesy photo

GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club members, from the left, Gloria King, Kathy Mouneimneh, Rosalie Dialessi and Aileen Semarie served 140 dinners recently at the Friends of the Homeless Shelter in Springfield. Members go to the shelter once a month to serve, just one of the many community service projects the club undertakes.

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Jack Reynor
Kelsey Grammer

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Jonah Hill
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‘Lunchtime Lyrics’ at the Agawam Public Library



Agawam musician Corlene Roberts performs.



Turley Publications photos by Kimberly Hatch



Lou and Gerry Roberts, of Agawam, listen on.



Juliette Berube, 4, applauds.



Rose Remavich, left, and Lindsey Havlin smile over Roberts' rendition of some Bob Dylan tune.



Charlotte, 6, and Juliette Berube, 4, nearly get lost in the music.



From the left, Charlotte Berube, 6, and Linda Noffall and Terry Noffall take in the music.

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Western Massachusetts' Premier Magazine for Families

SPORTS

Schirabeck delivers key hit for Ludlow

By Gregory A. Scibelli
*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

AGAWAM — The Ludlow Post 52 American Legion baseball team had a big four-run fourth inning, taking advantage of a couple of errors and walks and then held on for a 7-5 victory over Agawam Post 185 last Wednesday night.

Brett Laynen would start off the top of the fourth inning by reaching on an error. The next hitter was hit by a pitch and then Zack Frangules would follow by reaching on a fielder's choice.

With the bases loaded, Logan Schirabeck would single home a pair of runs to break the 3-3 tie the two teams had. After that, Chris Charest would get hit by a pitch and reach base to re-load the bases.

A flyout later, Post 52 would

get two more runs on a single to take a 7-3 lead.

Agawam was able to get a pair of runs back in the bottom of the fifth inning. Post-graduate catcher Zach Sabadosa and pitcher Nick Masserelli both walked to start the winning. Two outs later, Nick Destefano would send a single to the outfield, scoring Sabadosa. Tim Regnier, a newcomer to Agawam Legion, singled home Masserelli to make it 7-5.

Dylan Presnal did not allow anything further as Ludlow put up zeros against Agawam in the sixth and seventh innings.

Masserelli suffered the loss, but had a strong finish to his game and went the distance. He went seven innings. He allowed four hits, three walks, seven runs, only four earned, and struck out two. He also hit three batters. Coach Frank

See BASEBALL, page 13



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Left: Pitcher Dylan Presnal fires home in the fourth inning.

Above: Ludlow shortstop Brett Laynen tries to tag out Agawam base stealer Nick Masserelli.

Agawam rallies to overtake Belchertown

By Tim Peterson
*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

BELCHERTOWN — Even though the Belchertown 11-12-year-olds All-Star baseball team held a 5-0 lead after the first inning against Agawam in a Western Mass. District 2 Tournament Pool B game, Agawam manager Jerry Smith really wasn't very concerned about it. He knew that his players were capable of making a comeback.

After tying the score in the top half of the sixth inning, Agawam took the lead for the first time in the following inning leading to a very exciting 7-6 extra inning vic-

tory at beautiful Hulmes-Warner Mini Fenway Park in Belchertown, last Wednesday night.

"We do have some very good hitters on this team and I knew that we would be able to score some runs in this game tonight," Smith said. "We played a little bit tight in the first inning, but we just kept battling back after that. It feels very nice to win this game, especially on the road against a very good Belchertown team."

The members of the Agawam All-Star team are Matt Hotalling, Connor Feyre, Laine Page, Andrew Sullivan, Joe Longo, Nate Matues, Connor Begley, Cam Benoit, Connor Twohig, Zack Quick, Mike

Santore and Dylan Slioch.

The Agawam 11-12-year-olds All-Star team, who has won the District championship title three times since 2000, defeated Easthampton 11-1 in their second Pool B game last Saturday afternoon. They were also scheduled to play at Southampton on Wednesday night before wrapping up pool play by hosting Westfield National on Saturday afternoon.

Belchertown, who won their only District title in 2005, had four days off before they hosted Easthampton on Monday night. Their final two pool games were at Amherst on Wednesday night before

See AGAWAM, page 13

Legion teams come together to fight cancer

By Gregory A. Scibelli
*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

AGAWAM — Players from Agawam and Ludlow's American Legion baseball teams wore the same neon green uniforms last Wednesday night to show their support for fighting cancer in last Wednesday night's contest at Agawam High School.

There are familiar connections between the two teams as Brian Regnier, the Agawam head coach, is the son of Ludlow's assistant coach Butch Regnier.

As a result, the Ludlow-raised Regnier is also friends with Ludlow Legion coach Bob Bohl. Bohl's wife, Carlene, is currently battling cancer.

Bob Bohl said several American Legion teams have been very

support of he and his family. Like Agawam, other teams have helped raise money to donate to cancer research and raised awareness.

Against Agawam, the special jerseys were created and worn by both teams. Regnier said the unity his team was showing with Ludlow was an important lesson.

"We are two teams that are coming out to play baseball against one another," said Regnier. "But the jerseys show that we are united in the fight against cancer."

The jerseys had both teams logos on them and read "Legion Against Cancer."

"I thought the jerseys and the game was a great way for this league to show support and raise awareness," said Regnier. "We wanted to do something good for others show our support for the Bohl family."

See LEGION, page 13

ORANGE CRUSH DOMINATE PALMER IN FINALS



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

SPRINGFIELD — Congratulations goes out to the Agawam Orange Crush U12B softball team for winning the finals of the NEYSA tournament at Greenleaf Park last week.

Agawam drops opener to Belchertown

By Tim Peterson
*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

BELCHERTOWN — The Belchertown 9-10-year-olds All-Star baseball team has captured the Massachusetts District 2 Little League championship title the past two years. The 12 players listed on the Belchertown roster are hoping to win another championship banner this year.

Belchertown began the All-Star tournament with a 16-3 victory against the Agawam All-Stars in a Pool A round robin game, which was played at beautiful Hulmes-Warner Mini Fenway Park, last Tuesday night (June 24). The game ended after five innings because of

the 10-run mercy rule.

"Winning your first tournament game is always very important because some of the players on this team are playing together for the first time," said Belchertown manager Mark Zawistowski. "These players were ready to play tonight and I'm very proud of them. We just played a solid all-round game."

The members of the Belchertown 9-10 year olds All-Star team are Aidan Messier, Andrew Fijal, Shay O'Neil, Jordan Talbot, Ryan O'Neill, Ryan Zawistowski, Tyler Laramee, Tyler McDonald, Matt Tilton, Gina Camerota, Michael Gilbert and Tim Mitus.

The only returning members from last year's Belchertown

See OPENER, page 14

BASEBALL, from page 12

Destefano said Masserelli was strong near the end retiring nine of his 10 final batters.

Agawam actually struck first in the bottom of the first when Sabadosa nearly had an inside-the-park-home run. He drove an opposite field shot to deep right field. Andrew Mitchell, who reached on a single, easily scored. But a perfect relay by Ludlow resulted in Sabadosa being thrown out at the plate trying to score himself.

Ludlow took advantage of an error in the outfield in the second inning as Tyler Quetario came around to score to tie the game 1-1.

Post 185 would return the favor in the bottom of the second when Masserelli walked to

start the inning. He stole second and headed to third on a base hit by Destefano. Regnier then picked up an RBI single to chase home Masserelli.

Ludlow grabbed two runs in the top of the third inning, taking advantage of a hit batter and an error to take a 3-2 lead.

Agawam then tied the score in the bottom of the third when Dalton Drummond scored. He reached on an error and eventually scored on an error.

Agawam will next play Friday hosting Westfield at 5:45 p.m. Ludlow is back in action on Friday. They will go to Forest Park to play East Springfield at 5:45 p.m.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam's Nick Destefano makes contact for a hit.

AGAWAM, from page 12

returning home to face Southampton at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Belchertown manager John Endelos gave his thoughts about his team's extra inning loss against Agawam.

"It was a very good ballgame between two very good teams tonight," Endelos said. "They just made more plays than we did when it counted."

The members of the Belchertown All-Star team are Tyler Grissom, Jack Mankowsky, Chase Kupinsky, Austin Endelos, Colby Masse, Zack Bail, Cam Barry, Joey Douillard, Zack Jenks, Chris Buffone, Jacob Bresnahan, and Jack Gelinas.

With the score tied at 6-6 entering the top of the seventh inning, Matues and Begley began Agawam's rally with back-to-back singles leading off the frame, which put runners at the corners. After the next batter struck out, Quick drew a walk on a 3-2 pitch that loaded the bases. Then Hotalling drove home the go-ahead run by hitting a sacrifice fly to center field.

Barry, who took over on the mound in the sixth inning, struck out the next batter for the final out of the inning.

Belchertown had a chance to tie the score in the bottom half of the seventh inning, but they had a runner tagged out at the plate following an infield hit by Buffone. That was the second out and Matues, who took over on the mound in the middle of the sixth inning, struck out the next batter for the final out of the game.

Belchertown scored five runs in the bottom of the first inning with a little bit of help

from the Agawam defense. A ground ball single into center field by Bail drove home the game's first run. Two more runs crossed the plate when Buffone hit a grounder that was misplayed by the Agawam shortstop for an error. After Bail scored Belchertown's fourth run on a wild pitch, Jenks capped off the scoring in the long inning, which saw 10 batters come to the plate, with an RBI single to right field.

The Agawam manager decided to make a pitching change following that inning. Twohig, who was Agawam's starter, was replaced on the mound by Feyre, who went the 4 1-3 innings allowing just one run on two base hits.

"We made the decision to change pitchers after the first inning, which really helped us out a lot," Smith said. "Our starter is a very good pitcher, but we have to play good defense behind him, which we didn't do in the first inning tonight. We decided to bring in a pitcher who's capable of getting some strikeouts."

Hotalling put Agawam on the scoreboard by blasting a solo home run over the left field wall with one out in the third inning. Sullivan also had an RBI single in that frame.

Two innings later, Sullivan hit a towering two-run homer over the center field fence, which tied the score at 5-5.

Belchertown retook the lead again following an RBI single to center by Buffone with two outs in the home half of the fifth inning.

Agawam tied the score again with an unearned run in the sixth before taking the lead for the first time in the seventh.

Softball squad preps for Bay State Games

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY — The softball contender from Western Massachusetts was named earlier this week after tryouts were held in South Hadley to put together a team for the Bay State Games representing the region.

Hopkins Academy softball coach Fred Roach is the head coach of the team, and said several players from all over Western Mass. tried out between Sunday and Tuesday to be a part of the team.

He wished more players were able to come out and join the team, but says many of them are obligated to be elsewhere.

"We have a lot of great players here in Western Mass," said Roach, a South Hadley resident. "But many of them play tournament softball and are away with their teams during the summer."

Between 14 and 16 girls will make the team, and will have practice a couple of days a week before making the journey to Waltham to play at Veterans Field. They will play against teams from the other four regions in the state to take home the gold in the annual games.

Their practices will be held in South Hadley because Roach says it is a central location for most of the players on the teams.

"We have kids from all over the area and I did not want to go too far north or south," said Roach. "I think South Hadley is a great location to meet."

Coming from his hometown of South Hadley will be Ari Williams. Williams was a member of the varsity softball team this season and was a regular in the lineup for the Tigers.

This season, she batted .250 and had 17 hits with four doubles and three triples. She also drove in eight runs during the season.

Also likely part of the team is Holyoke Catholic's Krista Jasak. She was a key member of the Gaels this season and batted .420. She had two home runs, three triples, and four doubles. She had 21 hits this season and drove in 15 runs.

Jenn Yelin from Southwick is a second player on the team. She had a phenomenal year on offense for the Rams, helping to lead them all the way to the Western Massachusetts Division II semifinals.

Joining her from Southwick will be freshman upstart Emily Lachatra. Roach said he watched her pitch in the high school tournament.

"I was helping out with the tournament up at UMass and watched her pitch against Hampshire and invited her to come try out,"



Coach Fred Roach, a resident of South Hadley, hits ground balls at practice.



Marissa Sarna-McCarthy makes a play at first base.

said Roach. "I think she has tremendous potential to do very well, especially with some of the best players in the area playing behind her. She will be one of our pitchers at the games."

The Bay State Games will be held July 14-16 this year.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



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OPENER, from page 14

squad, which defeated Northampton 5-2 in the championship game, are Zawistowski, Laramee, Talbot, and Camerota.

"The four returning players are definitely the leaders of this team," manager Zawistowski said. "The other players on the team look up to them for advice and guidance because they've been in this situation before."

While the Belchertown players were celebrating in the third base dugout, the mood was a little bit different in the other dugout.

"It's a very tough loss for us, but we still have three more games to play in this tournament," said Agawam manager Mike Blanchette. "We have a lot of very good players on this team and we'll come back strong in our next game."

The members of the Agawam 9-10-year-olds All-Star team are Asa Agudelo, Mason Barcomb, Ben Blanchette, Matt Cleavall, Noah Jodoin, Jack Litz, Jermaine Norfleet, Jack Patterson, Billy Walsh, Jack Wassung, Michael Winer, Zack Zollo, and Kyle Albert.

Agawam, who won the pregame coin toss to determine who would be the home team, took a 1-0 lead against Belchertown in the bottom of the first inning.

Cleavall began Agawam's rally with a ground ball single up the middle into center field before advancing to second base following a bunt hit by Blanchette. Barcomb, who was the Agawam starting pitcher, helped himself by hitting a double to deep right field, which scored the first run of the ballgame. Another runner tried to score on the play, but he was tagged out at the plate by Zawistowski, who was the Belchertown starting catcher. Zawistowski received a strong throw from Tilton, who started the game in right field.

Camerota, who was Belchertown's starting pitcher, got out of the first inning jam without allowing any more runs by striking out the next two batters. She also struck out the side in the second inning before switching positions with Laramee, at shortstop. Camerota only threw 30 pitches in two innings of work against Agawam, which allowed her to start

Belchertown's second game.

Belchertown sent a total of 15 batters to the plate in the top of the second inning and nine of them scored. They also had nine of their 14 base hits in that frame.

Laramee and O'Neil led the offensive attack with two base hits and two runs in the second inning. Belchertown's other five runs in the frame were scored by Fijal, O'Neill, Talbot, Tilton, and Gilbert.

"We just didn't make the plays in that one inning," manager Blanchette said. "Hopefully, we'll bounce back and play a lot better in our next game."

Agawam did score a pair of runs on wild pitches in the third inning, but Belchertown had an 11-3 lead at that point.

Belchertown, which also scored a pair of runs in the third inning, added another run in the fourth inning before scoring four more runs in the fifth inning, which increased their lead to 16-3.

Two nights later, Belchertown posted an 11-5 victory against Northampton in their

second Pool A game, which was also played at their home ballpark.

Camerota went the first 4 2-3 innings in that contest before reaching the 75-pitch limit. Camerota allowed five runs on five base hits with five strikeouts and three walks. She also received the ball following the game for her outstanding performance.

Belchertown then lost 14-2 to Westfield National in their final home game, last Saturday night. Belchertown was scheduled to wrap-up pool play with a road game against Gateway on Tuesday night.

Agawam did get into the win column with a 22-4 home victory against Gateway, last Saturday morning. They also hosted Westfield National the following day and were scheduled to play at Northampton on Tuesday night.

The top two finishers in Pool A are scheduled to meet the top two finishers in Pool B in the semifinals on Thursday night. The two winners will face each other in the District 2 championship game on Sunday.

BUSINESS

ASBAC elects officers for upcoming term

The Agawam Small Business Assistance Center (ASBAC) elected its new executive board for the 2014-2016 term at a board of directors' retreat held recently.

Dino Gravanis, general manager of the Ranch Golf Club in Southwick, was elected chairman. He has served on the ASBAC board for several years and over the last two years was the vice chairman of the organization.

The vice chairman for the upcoming term is Mary Lynn Murray, project manager and sales director at Insurance Center of New England, Inc., located in Agawam. She has served on the board over the last year and has been involved with several workshops and projects.

Also serving as executive board officers are Freda Brown, Divorce Financial Services, treasurer; Sarah Szczebak, Block Grant Project coordinator, West Springfield Office of Community De-



Dino Gravanis



Mary Lynn Murray

velopment, secretary; and Dee L. Emery-Ferrero, DEF Enterprises, past chairwoman and Nominating Committee chairwoman.

New members to the ASBAC Board of Directors this year include Debra Garvin, branch manager, Hampden Bank, Suffield Street, Agawam; Susanne DeVillier, branch manager, Easthampton Savings Bank, Main Street, Agawam; and Lori Stuckles, branch manager, United Bank, Silver Street, Agawam.

Returning board members include Mayor Richard A. Cohen of Agawam; Deb Dachos, Agawam Planning & Community Development administrator and program chairperson; Fred Stratton, retired, volunteer; Cynthia Ayre, Ayre Real Estate; Gina Fusick, bank manager, United Bank, Feeding Hills; Dale Mazzanec, Small Business Commercial Lender, United Bank, West Springfield; and Derek Jarvis, ASBAC facilitator.

David A. Chase, vice president and commercial lender for Hampden Bank, was recently named a recipient of the "2014 Community Bank Hero" awarded by the Bankers & Tradesman's magazine. This prestigious honor is given to those business professionals who provide outstanding service to their clients and have gone above and beyond for the community. Chase was recently honored at an awards



David A. Chase

gala held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Boston.

A lifetime resident of western Massachusetts, Chase is actively involved with several organizations including West of the River Chamber of Commerce as a board member. Chase is also a board member of the Grey House, where he spends many hours volunteering his time toward the Grey's house efforts to revitalize the community.

Chase recognized as 'Community Bank Hero'

Fitness First Health & Fitness Center, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center, Wednesday, July 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification

with photo is required to donate blood.

All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.

Fitness First to host blood drive

Legal Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court

Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street

Springfield, MA 01103

(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD14P1308EA

Estate of:

Alice LaVerne Drzal

Also known as:

Alice L Drzal

Date of Death: 03/07/2014

CITATION ON

PETITION FOR

FORMAL

ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: **Marlene F. Chretien** of Feeding Hills MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that: **Marlene F. Chretien** of Feeding Hills MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on

07/23/2014.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 25, 2014

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
7/3/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court

50 State Street

Springfield, MA 01103

Probate and Family Court

Docket No. HD14P0672GD

In the interests of

Faith M Lapointe

Of Agawam, MA

Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER:

Petition for Resignation

or Petition for Removal of

Guardianship of a Minor

NOTICE TO ALL

INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time:

A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Sarah Ann LaPointe** and **Raymond Thomas LaPointe** on June 20, 2014 will be held 07/28/2014 01:15 pm. Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located Probate & Family Court Dept., 50 State Street, 4th floor, Springfield, MA 01103

2. Response to Petition:

You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the

Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:

A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: June 20, 2014

Suzanne T Seguin

Register of Probate

7/3/2014

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

THE TRIAL COURT

HAMPDEN, Div.

HD14P0672GD

IN RE: Faith Michelle

LaPointe, minor

ORDER AND NOTICE

General Petition for Visitation

NOTICE TO ALL

INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a General Petition for Visitation filed on June 20, 2014 will be held July 28, 2014 at 01:15 p.m., 50 State Street, 4th floor, Springfield, MA 01103

2. Response to Petition:

You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the

Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:

A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: June 23, 2014

Suzanne T Seguin

Register of Probate

7/3/2014

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING

The Agawam City Coun-

cil Administrative Sub-Committee will conduct a public hearing on **Thursday, July 17, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.**

at the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA on the petition of Verizon New England, Inc. and WMECO for permission to move an existing pole on Cooper Street, Agawam to make way for a new street called Jasmine Lane, Agawam, MA., as well as permission to relocate a line of poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across the area on Cooper Street, Agawam.

Robert E. Rossi, Chairman
Administrative Sub-Committee

7/3/14

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

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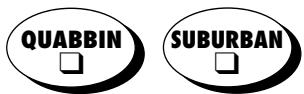


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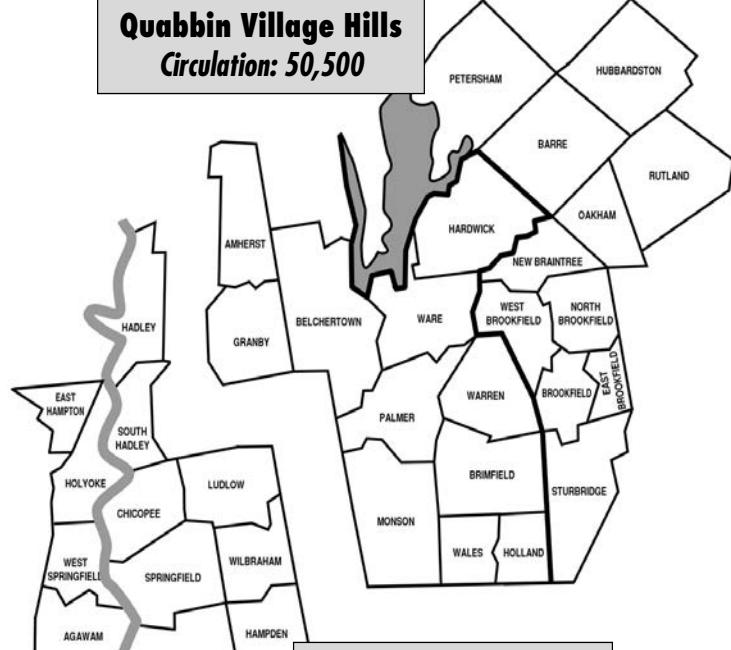
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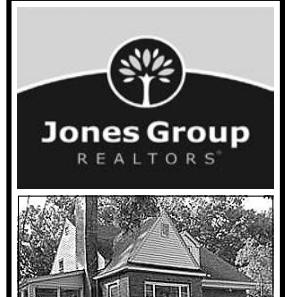
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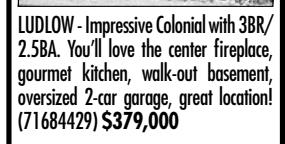
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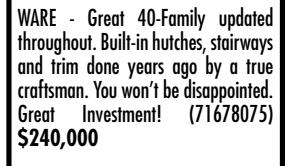
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For Rent

FOR RENT



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Housing and Urban Development "HUD"
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The head, co-head or spouse must be elderly (62 years of age or older) or disabled and meet both HUD and property eligibility requirements regarding income and unit size. Rent is based upon 30% of monthly adjusted income and includes heat & hot water. Amenities include a community room and on-site laundry.

Maximum income guidelines are published by HUD, based on family size and are subject to change:

1 Person: \$30,100
2 Person: \$34,400
3 Person: \$38,700
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Wilbraham Commons is accepting applications for their 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Applications will be provided upon request and will be numbered and date & time stamped upon receipt in the order they are received. Visit or call the management office for more information and/or assistance with the application process.

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 9:30 am to 12:00 noon and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

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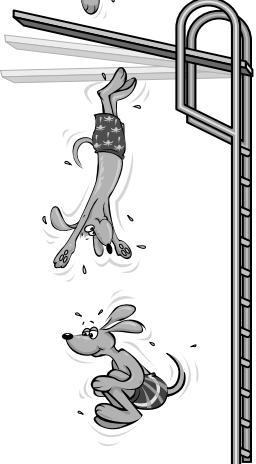
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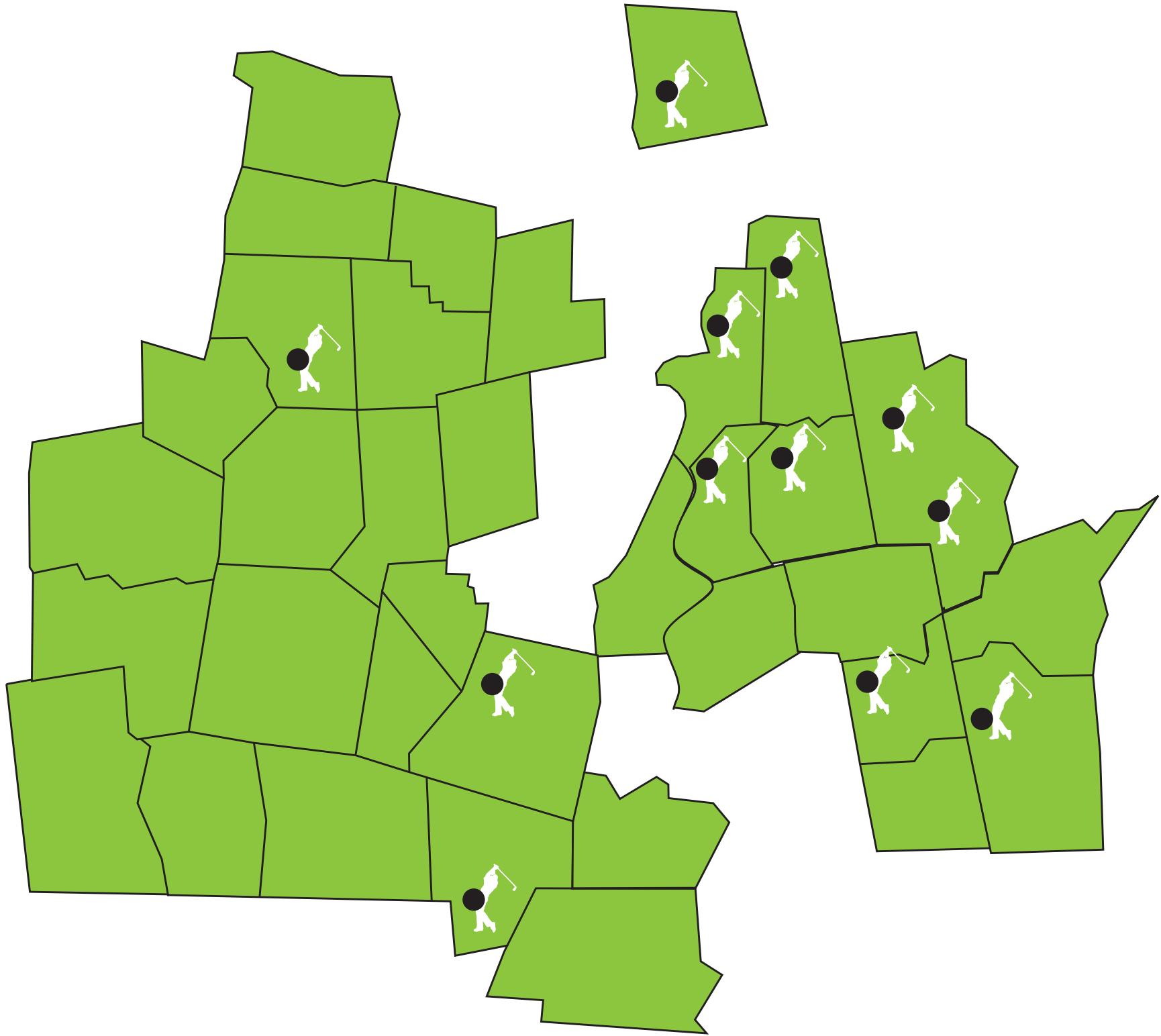
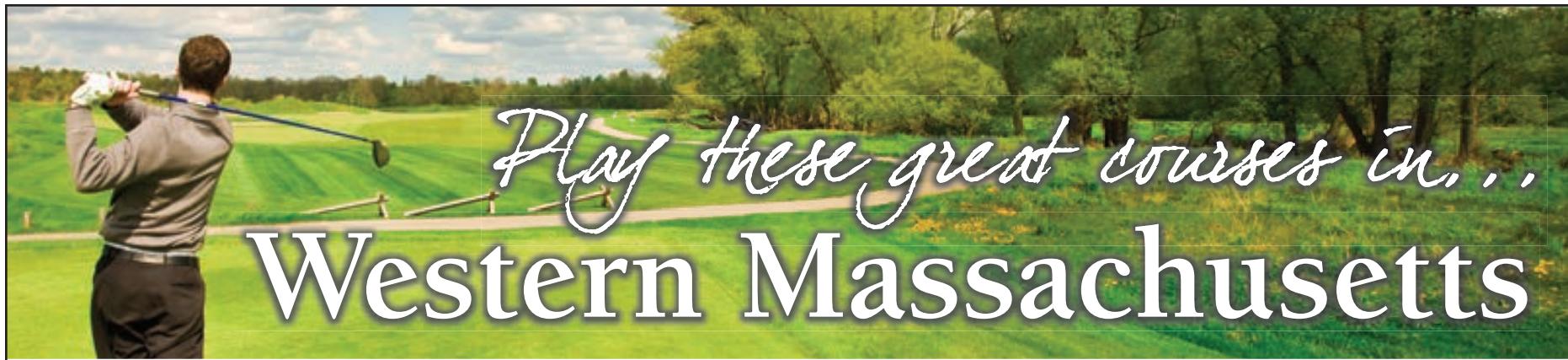
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